

Missouri Assessment Program

Spring 2005

Communication Arts

Released Items Scoring Guide

Grade 3

Session: 1
Item No.: 1
Page No.: 7
Content Standard(s): 3
Process Standard(s): 3.1

Item 1

What is the main problem for the people of the Amazon rain forest?

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

Scoring guide

2 points The response includes a reasonable problem with TWO details from the story.

1 point The response includes a reasonable problem with ONE detail from the story OR one or both parts are overly general or simplistic.

0 points other

Examples of top-score-point responses

- The river goes up and down, so the people have to do things differently at different times.
They can't have their animals on the ground all the time, and they can't use the roads all the time.
- Everything gets flooded in the high-water time.
The people have to build houses so they float or are on stilts so everything doesn't get wet.
- There is too much rain.
The river gets so high that people have to keep their animals on rafts, and they have to get food by canoeing into the forest.

Session: 1
Item No.: 2
Page No.: 7
Content Standard(s): 3 (Part A), 4 (Part B)
Process Standard(s): 1.6 (Part A) 1.8 (Part B)

Item 2

Compare how people and animals in the rain forest live differently during the high-water and the low-water seasons. Complete the chart using information from the story.

Scoring guide

2 points The response includes FOUR correctly placed, text-based examples.

1 point The response includes TWO or THREE correctly placed, text-based examples.

0 points other

Some examples of top-score-point responses

High-Water	Low-Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People go into the forest to get fruit and nuts.• Chickens live on porches.• Fish and lizards eat the seeds in the forest.• Pigs and cows live on rafts.• People paddle into the forest to get food/fruit and nuts.• Children go to school/people travel by canoe.• Seeds are spread by animals/fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pigs and cows live on the land.• Chickens live on ground.• Seeds are planted by people.• Children go to school on foot.• People plant gardens in the mud.•

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Item No.: 3
Page No.: 8
Content Standard(s): 3
Process Standard(s): 1.6

Item 3

Read this sentence from the story.

“They make rafts for their pigs and cows to float on”

What does **rafts** mean in the story?

Explain in your own words what you found in the story to help you understand the meaning of **rafts**.

Scoring guide

- 2 points The response includes a reasonable definition or synonym with an appropriate text-based clue.
- 1 point The response includes a reasonable definition or synonym without an appropriate text-based clue
- OR a clue without a definition
 - OR one or both parts are overly general or simplistic.
- 0 points other

Note: The definition and the clue may be embedded within each other.

Note: If the response is a clue alone, the clue must show understanding of the meaning of the word.

Session: 1
Item No.: 4
Page No.: 8
Content Standard(s): 3
Process Standard(s): 3.5

Item 4

Imagine you live in the Amazon rain forest. Circle your favorite season.

High-Water Season**Low-Water Season**

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

Scoring guide

- 2 points The response indicates a favorite season using TWO appropriate text-based details.
- 1 point The response indicates a favorite season but uses only ONE appropriate text-based detail OR one or both reasons are overly general or simplistic (e.g., You can have more fun then./It's nicer then).
- 0 points other

Note: The choice need not be circled as long as the stance is clearly understood from the response.

Some examples of top-score-point responses**My favorite season is the high-water season because**

- it is funny to see animals on a raft.
- I like to ride in a canoe.
- I like to go deep in the forest to get food.
- I like to live on water, in houses on stilts.

Note: Playing in water is too general for a detail.

My favorite season is the low-water season because

- there is sunshine.
- animals can move around on the ground.
- I can run around on the ground instead of riding in a canoe./I like to play in the dirt.
- we can plant corn and beans.
- I like walking to school.
- The sun dries up the floodwaters.

Note: For low-water season, "live in a house on stilts" is not acceptable, because it is not because of low water that they have houses on stilts.

Session: 1
Item No.: 5
Page No.: 9
Content Standard(s): 3 (Part A), 4 (Part B)
Process Standard(s): 1.6 (Part A), 2.1 (Part B)

Item 5

Pretend you live in the Amazon rain forest during the high-water season. Write a letter to a friend describing how you live. Use THREE details from the story in your description.

Scoring guide**Part A** (CA 3, PS 1.6)

2 points The response includes a reasonable description using THREE appropriate text-based details.

1 point The response includes a reasonable description using only ONE or TWO appropriate text-based details OR is overly general or simplistic.

0 points other

Part B (CA 4, PS 2.1)

1 point The response includes at least TWO elements:

- heading (address or date)
- salutation/greeting
- indentation
- written from the appropriate point of view
- closing
- signature

0 points other

An example of a top-score-point response

April 29, 2005

Dear Friend,

It is raining again today. The water is up high in the trees, but the cows and pigs are on the raft, so they are OK. I will go to school in the canoe again today. After school, I will go with Dad into the forest to get some fruit. It is fun to paddle the canoe through the tree tops.

Your friend,
Lisa

Session: 1
Item No.: 6
Page No.: 10
Content Standard(s): 3
Process Standard(s): 3.4

Item 6

Do the people of the Amazon use good ways to solve the problems of living during the high-water season?

Circle one:**YES****NO**

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

Scoring guide

- 2 points The response includes a reasonable explanation and uses TWO appropriate text-based details.
- 1 point The response includes a reasonable explanation but uses only ONE appropriate text-based detail OR is overly general or simplistic (e.g., They travel differently./They get their food differently).
- 0 points other

Note: The YES or NO need not be circled if the stance is clearly understood from the explanation.

Some examples of top-score-point responsesYes:

- They made houses on stilts.
- They made floating houses so they wouldn't get flooded/wet.
- They travel by canoe.
- They keep the animals on the porch or on rafts so they won't get wet.
- They canoe into the forest to get food and water.
- They canoe to school.

No:

- The chickens on the porch would smell.
- The houses could sink.
- The people might drown.
- The animals could fall off the raft.

Session: 2
Item No.: Writing Prompt
Pages No.: 3-10
Content Standard(s): 4
Process Standard(s): 2.1

4 Points**Session 2****Writing Prompt Scoring Guide**

The paper

- has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- contains a clear controlling idea.
- clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- contains words that are specific, accurate, and suited to the topic.
- consistently uses complete sentences.
- clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

3 Points

The paper

- has a beginning, middle, and end.
- contains a controlling idea.
- addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- contains some words that are specific, accurate, and related to the topic.
- generally uses complete sentences.
- shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not significantly distracting to the reader.

2 Points

The paper

- has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- contains a general sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- generally addresses the topic, but may contain some details that are not relevant.
- uses words that tend to be repetitive, imprecise, and ordinary.
- contains some incomplete sentences that may be distracting to the reader.
- shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

1 Point

The paper

- may lack evidence of a beginning, middle and/or end.
- is difficult to follow and/or lacks focus.
- attempts to address topic, but lacks development.
- uses words that are consistently repetitive, dull, and colorless.

- includes incomplete sentences that are distracting to the reader.
- shows little or no awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.